

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Please help... Please approve the merger of DirectTV and Dish Network. I am now being held hostage by my local cable company with Broadband (first paid TV, now Broadband). Why is it congress doesn't care about local Cable monopolies? Is it because consumers have the option of Satellite TV? Well, doesn't the reverse argument for a combined Satellite company hold true as well?

I am a current subscriber of Dish Network and a subscriber of Comcast Broadband internet. I just received my 3rd Comcast Broadband increase in 10 months (\$34.99 to \$54.99 - a 38% increase). To make matters worse, Comcast is employing Microsoft-type tactics as well. Comcast has increased broadband-only service to \$54.99/month, however if I also subscribe to basic cable the combined price would remain at \$55/month. How can this be???? The answer is simple... Comcast (as well as every other cable company) is the real MONOPOLY. Why are we burrying our heads in the sand and getting all concered over the merger when the real monopoly is the local cable companies. They first started screwing consumers with the price of cable until satellite offerings became COMPETITIVE. Now they are abusing their monopoly power with high-speed broadband because there is no real competition (regardless of how anyone defines their 'market' or 'competitors').

IF Dish Network agrees to a National pricing plan, wouldn't everyone benefit from the competition of the larger markets and cable TV? Unless the real issue is the true 'power' of the Cable Industry and their lobbying dollars.... which is apparently pretty strong. I think it is about time we get a couple of economists elected to office that understand what a 'monopoly' truly is, how 'markets' are defined, what are 'substitute' goods are, AND most importantly, what is GOOD FOR THE CONSUMER.

I sincererly wish to discuss this matter further. Please do not hesitate to call me at 203 798 2676.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Sorensen
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